

Treatment Program for Citrus Leafminer

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Based on experiments conducted in Florida

Mature Citrus Orchards:

No insecticide treatments are needed, and native natural enemies should be conserved. In California, the spring populations of leafminer that might affect citrus yield are too low to have an economic impact.

Newly Planted and Nonbearing Citrus:

During the first 2 - 4 years after planting, heavy infestations of citrus leafminer can reduce the growth and vigor of young citrus. Either Admire applied as a systemic or Agri-Mek + oil applied as a foliar effectively reduce leafminer populations. However, there are limits of 32 oz of Admire per year and 3 applications of Agri-Mek totaling no more than 40 oz/acre per year per grove. We expect California populations of leafminer to be light in the spring and heavy in the fall. Admire lasts longer (60 days) than Agri-Mek (20 days) and so it should be saved for the heavier fall population. We suggest that 10 oz Agri-Mek + 0.25 - 0.5% narrow range oil be used as a citrus thrips spray in the spring if CLM densities exceed 30% of the new flush, and this rate will simultaneously reduce leafminer. We suggest that you apply the 32 oz rate of Admire through the microsprinklers in the fall (September) to affect the heavier fall population of leafminer. It will take 2 - 3 weeks for the Admire to move into the leaf tissues of young trees. Consult the product labels for additional instructions on application and restrictions on product use.

Nursery Citrus:

The following information will assist in managing CLM populations and maintaining tree health within the nursery.

Both the systemic Admire and foliar insecticide treatments are needed to obtain maximum protection of nursery citrus from leafminer infestations. Admire will reduce leafminer populations for 2 - 3 months. There is a limit of 32 oz of Admire/acre per year. The general recommendation for treatment is 16 - 32 oz of Admire/acre. The higher rate of Admire is more effective at reducing leafminer populations, however, that rate limits the number of applications per year to one. The Admire applied as a drench or through microsprinklers will require a minimum of 7 days for uptake. Admire can be applied any time of the year for potted nursery trees. For field grown trees, it will be effectively taken up when there is root flush (March - September). We currently do not have a recommendation for foliar treatments of citrus nurseries in California. Many of the products that are registered for bearing citrus are not registered for nursery citrus in order to limit development of resistance in pests such as citrus thrips. Oil sprays will help to prevent the moths from laying eggs. Any time that flush is present, leafminer can develop and so foliar protection will need to be applied frequently. We are in the process of conducting trials to develop recommendations for foliar treatments for citrus nurseries.